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REVIEWS OF BOOKS

The Mycenæan Age: a Study of the Monuments and Culture of Pre-Homeric Greece. By Dr. CHRESTOS TSOUNTAS, Ephor of Antiquities and Director of Excavations at Mycenæ, and J. IRVING MANATT, Ph.D., LL.D., Professor of Greek Literature and History in Brown University. (Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Co. 1897. Pp. xix, 417.)

PROFESSOR MANATT tells us in his preface that his first intention in regard to this book was to produce an English version of Dr. Tsountas's *Μυκηναίαι καὶ Μυκηναῖος πολιτισμός*, published at Athens in 1893. This intention, however, was abandoned, and in the work now before us, although "the bulk of the material" has been furnished by Dr. Tsountas (partly in the form of manuscript additions to his printed text), the American editor has done so much in the way of re-arrangement, revision and addition as to feel warranted in saying: "there are few pages in it to which I have not made some material contribution." Inasmuch as the new matter from the hand of Dr. Tsountas is not in every case identifiable, the reviewer cannot gauge the exact extent of the American editor's responsibility. But, except for a chapter on "The Mycenæan World and Homer," the word "editor" is clearly more appropriate than "joint author" to describe him. I feel bound therefore to express my conviction that the title-page is somewhat misleading in its suggestion of equality in authorship. But I would not press this point, especially as Dr. Tsountas himself, for all I know, may have sanctioned the form adopted. And it is a pleasure to say that the work of translation and adaptation has been extremely well done. The Greek word for "perhaps" (*ἴσως*) is commonly, and I believe regularly, rendered by "probably," except in one case (p. 323, note 2), where it appears as "no doubt." Otherwise a moderately close scrutiny has enabled me to detect only six or eight misinterpretations: "burnt brick" for "tiles" on p. 43, "have been found elsewhere" for "were found years ago" on p. 119, "e. g." for "viz." on p. 157, and a few more about equally trivial. In this connection I may mention as an infelicity the use of "we" in speaking of matters in which Dr. Tsountas alone was concerned, as on p. 152: "in the tomb at Vaphio we found the teeth of several dogs," and similarly often. Rarely does the reviewer of a translated book glean so meagre a sheaf of *corrigenda*. Professor Manatt's English is real English, not translator's English. When it is added that in place of the eleven plates and the few small cuts offered by Dr. Tsountas the American volume is enriched with twenty-two full-page plates and

a hundred and sixty-nine illustrations in the text, enough will have been said on the relation which the work before us bears to its Greek original.

There are now three valuable books which deal in a comprehensive way with the facts and problems of Mycenæan research. One is Schuchhardt's *Schliemann's Ausgrabungen*, of which a good English translation has been made by Miss Eugénie Sellers. The second is the sixth volume of Perrot and Chipiez's great *Histoire de l'Art dans l'Antiquité*, the volume which deals with *La Grèce primitive*; of this only a grotesque travesty exists in English. The third is the book now under review. As the titles imply, the three works are not exactly conterminous. Schuchhardt centers his account in the life of the famous explorer, to whom, with all his shortcomings, belongs the credit of being the first to reveal to us the Mycenæan civilization. Thus Schuchhardt gives a critical résumé of Schliemann's big and gossipy tomes, with some supplementary matter, the whole arranged topographically. Perrot and Chipiez, in their sumptuous volume of over a thousand pages, are concerned primarily with art, though incidentally they treat of numerous collateral subjects. Drs. Tsountas and Manatt deal systematically, though of course not exhaustively, with all the aspects of Mycenæan culture which are known or can be guessed at. Thus their book is likely to prove the most convenient of the three for the historical student seeking to acquaint himself with the general results already won in this field. The fact that the principal author, a sagacious and modest explorer, is reporting discoveries in which he has himself borne a most important part is a source of added interest. Moreover, this book has the advantage over the other two of being by several years later in date and so of being able to incorporate more recent results of Mycenæan research. Thus Dr. Tsountas has furnished a summary of Mr. A. J. Evans's brilliant essay on *Cretan Pictographs and præ-Phœnician Script*, and has endeavored to minimize the importance, so far as continental Greece is concerned, of the modes of writing there discussed; an appendix gives, after Messrs. Noack and de Ridder, a condensed account of the fortress and palace of Gha in Lake Copais; and, in short, everything important and relevant down to the summer of 1896 inclusive is duly registered.

The student, then, who desires a compact and sober record of the evidence available for the study of Mycenæan antiquity will find a safe guide in this volume. As to the accompanying interpretation of the evidence it is not possible, in the nature of the case, to speak so positively. In regard to a few points of architectural archæology Professor Dörpfeld's short Introduction supplies a valuable criticism on the views of Dr. Tsountas. But it may be that the non-specialist will not get an adequate notion of the uncertainty still besetting the more important historical problems of the subject. The date of the Mycenæan civilization does indeed seem established upon secure foundations, Mr. Cecil Torr to the contrary notwithstanding. But as much cannot be said for the details of that civilization. Were such objects as the dagger-blades of Mycenæ and the gold cups of Vaphio manufactured in Mycenæan workshops or

imported from abroad, say from Phœnicia? In the latter case their supposed evidence as to Mycenæan manners and customs is annihilated. Dr. Tsountas is in accord with most investigators of to-day in holding to the former view, but the authority of Helbig has recently been thrown into the other scale. *Sub judice lis est*. Again, were the people who built the walls and palaces of Tiryns and Mycenæ and the beehive tombs of Argolis, Attica, Bœotia and so on, of Hellenic or alien stock? Here too the tendency has latterly been strong in favor of the former alternative, but until a more convincing proof can be made out than is presented in the chapter on the "The Problem of the Mycenæan Race," laymen will do well to hold their minds in suspense on this question.

It is hardly necessary to say that the appearance of the book is excellent. The typographical errors that I have noted are limited to numbers and to foreign words. The date 1723 assigned to Wheler's *Journey into Greece*, instead of 1682, can hardly be fathered on the printer. Mention should be made of the successful reproductions of the reliefs on the Vaphio cups which adorn the cover.

F. B. TARBELL.

A History of the Hebrew People from the Division of the Kingdom to the Fall of Jerusalem in 586 B. C. By CHARLES FOSTER KENT, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biblical Literature and History, Brown University. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1897. Pp. xvii, 218.)

THIS work, the first volume of which, covering the period from the settlement in Canaan to the death of Solomon, appeared in 1896, is an outline of the history of Israel from the modern critical point of view, adapted to the needs of college students, university extension classes, Sunday-school teachers, and the like. The author has aimed at nothing more than a brief and popular presentation of the results in which recent historians are substantially agreed, and this task he has accomplished with no small measure of success.

The volume before us is well arranged, in good proportion, clearly written and interesting throughout. In the main it may be commended as a sufficiently accurate account of the present state of knowledge and opinion. Its defects are chiefly such as arise from haste and too implicit reliance upon the work of others. Some vexatious errors would have been avoided had the author consulted the sources for himself. Thus, on p. 52 we read: "Meander [*sic*] of Ephesus also refers to a drought during the reign of Ethobalos (Phœnician, Ethbaal), King of Tyre," etc. *Meander* is doubtless an oversight in proof-reading, of which there are many other instances (Phraotes, Ashtarte, Jehoiakin, Nabuzaradan, Recabites, Ebed-meleck); the king's name is Ἰθώβαλος; *Ethbaal* is not Phœnician, but the pronunciation of the Hebrew Bible, based on an erroneous etymology. On p. 145, in the translation of an Assyrian inscription, the name is written *Ethobal*—a purely fictitious form—instead